

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning at page 10, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

As shown in Figure 1, said apparatus ~~10~~ comprises a product identification band, wrapping member or label 10 which serves to encircle, partially encircle or wraps around a dish format container. The label 10 comprises a backing layer (not shown) carrying a release material on one face and a label layer 12 carrying an adhesive on one face to secure the label to the product packaging in due course, said face being adhered to the backing layer and being separable therefrom for application to a package or product in due course.

The product identification band or label 10 is formed with discontinuities 14 in the label layer 12 which may be in the form of cuts, slots, perforations or the like which penetrate the label layer 12. These discontinuities may take the form of two cuts which converge at a single point, or else be in the form of a single V-shaped cut. A fold, scored or creased line 16 is provided between the non convergent region 18 of the cut or cuts such that a ~~triangular region or~~ flap 20, which may be a triangular region, is formed in the label layer 12 therebetween. In addition, the ~~region~~ flap 20 may also be embossed to a degree such that it is slightly raised from the surface of the main body of the label 12, and this also serves to assist the lifting action of the flap.

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning at page 11, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

The product identification band, wrapping member or label 12 is then applied to and adheres to the packaged product (not shown) such that the ~~triangular area~~ flap 20 is located over the aperture. Once the label 12 has been applied, the contents of the container remain hermetically sealed despite the regions of discontinuity 14 formed therein as the adhesive provided on the label layer including the flap 20 portion serves to retain this portion in contact with the sealant means.

When the packaged food product is heated in a microwave oven, steam is generated within the package which acts to heat and/or cook the food contained therein. When the amount of steam created within the package reaches a level at which it begins to impinge on the integrity of the sealant film, the pressure will act on the point of least resistance and this will be the aperture made in the sealant film. The steam will begin to move through this aperture as the pressure inside increases. As the aperture is covered by the label 10 and in particular the ~~triangular or flap portion~~ 20 the steam moving through the aperture will act on the underside of the product identification band, wrapping member or label in this particular region 20, and the pressure of the escaping steam will cause the adhesive to be this region of the label to be overcome thus permitting the flap

portion 20 to lift and act as a valve allowing the steam to vent as shown in Figure 6.